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HONOLULU, DECEMBER 25, 1899.

What the Congress of the United States will do is something no one dare predict. What it ought to do is quite another matter. It is certain at least that it will not enact legislation in the interest of Hawaii until after the holidays. Congress annexed Hawaii by joint resolution, and provided that Hawaiian laws not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States should continue to govern until an enabling act was passed. It gave the President power to appoint and remove any officers of the government and the general supervision over Hawaiian affairs, but it did not give him the power to set aside or make inoperative any of the Hawaiian laws not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States: yet one of the first acts of the President was the issuing of a peremptory injunction forbidding the local election of senators and representatives of the legislature, thus contrary to Hawaiian law which, by the Newlands resolution, was made to govern, cutting the people off from any representation in the affairs of government. In the first place this was un-American, and it certainly was not the intent of Congress to delegate a power to the President that would have this effect. In the second place the possibility of a delay in getting the requisite appropriations made next year has placed the local government in a very embarrassing position. Taxation continues and money is piling up in the treasury with no means of making it available for circulation in the channels it was intended for. By the end of this month there will be a balance in the treasury of nearly \$2,000,000, considerably more than half of which is probably surplus; yet, unless the enabling act is speedily passed by Congress, all public work must stop, school-houses close, and all branches of government must be crippled for want of money when there are more than ample funds in the treasury to meet all requirements. Doubtless President McKinley, in stopping Hawaiian elections, had an abiding faith that Congress would act promptly in Hawaiian affairs, but as no man can tell what Congress will do, leaving out of the question the constitutionality of his interference, Mr. McKinley did the people of Hawaii great injustice in placing them in a position that banishes the possibility of self government if Congress does not act.

The President's land proclamation, which sets aside the Hawaiian land laws and breaks every sale or lease made by the Hawaiian Government, which was authorized by the

Newlands resolution, is an arbitrary act that is not only unconstitutional, but works great injustice to innocent purchasers and retards business in producing a feeling of uncertainty in land titles. The United States annexed the Hawaiian Islands without the consent of the majority of the people of Hawaii, and if the islands are to be retained as an integral part of the United States it is the duty of manifestly Congress to immediately pass an enabling act which will give Hawaiians self-government or in some way curb the President's propensity for interfering with the operation of Hawaiian laws, which are good enough for any one.

It would be almost impossible for those living on the mainland, especially in the Eastern States, to realize what Christmas is like in the mid-Pacific. It is as balmy as June this Christmas morning with the birds chattering in the trees, and the warm sea-breeze fanning the cheek. The day has none of the conventional customs that surround Christmas in other lands, and to those born in the United States, Merry England or Europe, the day loses a large part of its charm. To those to the manor-born Christmas Day with the snow on the ground is a strange and unaccustomed sight. Yet even to them there is a charm in the snow and the swift sleigh-ride of winter, bundled up deep in furs—a delight the holiday does not possess here.

Imagine one coming into the house Christmas afternoon wiping the perspiration from his brow and complaining of the heat. Imagine the ladies sitting down to Christmas dinner in white muslin dresses and fanning themselves while the chit-chat goes around the table. Imagine the trees green with the bright bloom of early spring upon them, and driving up through avenues of palms as one drives to a friend's house to dinner and green lawns, with children in white frocks, playing on them. If people abroad can imagine all these things, and such an unconventional Christmas, a fair idea of the winter conditions in Hawaii may be realized.

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